United Nations A/C.2/62/SR.6

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
5 November 2007

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 October 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

07-53529 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country had achieved significant progress towards a social market economy through an ongoing process of comprehensive reform, including of its economic, financial and investment legislation, with particular focus on strengthening the three pillars of sustainable development and achieving internationally agreed development objectives, inter alia the Millennium Development Goals. It nevertheless faced constant difficulties and challenges. Because of the continuing Israeli occupation, the Syrian Golan was being drained of its rich natural resources and subjected to serious environmental degradation as a result of irresponsible Israeli practices. In that connection, he urged the delegations of Australia, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau, which had voted against the Second Committee resolution on the subject at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, and those of Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Nauru and Uganda, which had abstained, as well as those which had been absent during the voting, to review their positions and vote in favour of the draft resolution at the current session.

2. The Syrian application for World Trade Organization (WTO) membership, submitted in 2001, had thus far made no appearance on the WTO agenda. That membership process should not be used as a tool for political pressure by certain influential WTO members.

3. United States trade sanctions against his country had remained in place since 2004. The Syrian Arab Republic was severely critical of any State that imposed or encouraged unilateral measures against another State as a means of political and economic coercion and it therefore called on Member States to comply with General Assembly resolution 60/185 on that subject, which the United States had been alone in opposing.

4. The Syrian economy was under heavy pressure from the war and instability in the region; prices had risen, but the country's essential resources and health, education and other services were also very badly overstretched by the influx of more than one and a half million Iraqi refugees. The international will to address that refugee problem was lacking and it was unacceptable that the Syrian Arab Republic should have to shoulder the economic and social consequences of the misguided United States and United Kingdom practices in the region. The damage moreover extended to economies worldwide, affected as they were by the surging price of oil and oil derivatives since the occupation of Iraq and the tide of instability and insecurity in the Middle East.

5. With reference to Israel's intended submission of a draft resolution on the subject of harnessing agricultural technology for development, he said that Member States should examine the repercussions of Israel's practices and policies on agricultural resources in the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, all of which were amply described in the report in document A/62/75-E/2007/13. Israel should be ashamed to submit such a draft resolution, for the only technology it had offered to the world involved aggression, occupation and the denial of rights. Any draft that it did submit should reflect its own practices and violations relating to agriculture in the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan.

6. **Ms. Phommachanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that least developed countries and landlocked developing countries needed stronger support in their efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development and integrate into the globalized economy. That should be done first and foremost through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the Almaty Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries. In particular, the landlocked developing countries needed international assistance for the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action to be held in 2008.

7. Increased support was also needed through existing WTO arrangements, including Aid for Trade and the enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries. His delegation attached great importance to the early resumption and conclusion of the Doha Development Round; in that process, favourable consideration should be given to the special needs of landlocked developing countries as outlined in the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round. Official development assistance to those countries should be increased, as called for in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The forthcoming High-level

Dialogue on Financing for Development would generate momentum for the successful conclusion of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Qatar in 2008.

8. The High-level Event on Climate Change had shown the determination of world leaders to tackle the challenge of that phenomenon in an urgent manner. The outcome of the debate would contribute significantly to the success of the thirteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Bali. Discussions on the issue should be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and focus on sustainable development. The least developed countries and small island developing States needed financial and technical assistance in building their capacity to adapt and to acquire appropriate technologies.

9. His Government was strongly committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and had devised a strategy to address its development priorities, including those of eradicating poverty by 2010 and moving the country out of least-developed-country status by 2020. The sixth Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2006-2010 had started out well. Despite the progress made, however, his country faced numerous challenges. As a landlocked least developed country, it had suffered as a result of high transit transport costs which had eroded its competitiveness in regional and international trade and constrained its national revenue. His country needed greater support from the international community.

10. **Mr. Kariyawasam** (Sri Lanka) said that the world should address the issue of climate change within the context of sustainable development and on the basis of agreed Rio principles. It was important to accept differentiated responsibilities in tackling the issue. The world must recognize the value of the forest cover in developing countries, which must be maintained for the benefit of humanity.

11. His Government was committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Sri Lanka was already on par with the goals for primary education, school gender parity and reproductive health services. It was on track towards reaching universal primary education well before 2015. Gender disparity had been eliminated in both primary and junior secondary education. Child mortality and maternal mortality had been reduced to a level comparable with the levels obtained in some developed countries. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka was still relatively low, and awareness programmes were being carried out for vulnerable groups. The challenge was the segment of the population still living below the national poverty line.

12. Sri Lanka had a rural road development programme, a rural development programme, and a national infrastructure development initiative. His Government appreciated the support and assistance it had received from the international community; however, the United Nations system and other donors needed to ensure that project funds were spent on actual delivery on the ground and not on overhead expenses.

13. The time had come for the United Nations to reassert its role in economic and social affairs in the international community. Members must find innovative ways to empower the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Second Committee to assume their intended roles.

14. **Mr. Fluss** (Israel) said that broad participation in the High-level Event on Climate Change had generated political will for the forthcoming Bali Climate Change Conference. The Second Committee should lay the groundwork for negotiations on a post-2012 arrangement by adopting a constructive resolution in that regard. Similarly, the third High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development would help preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha. The Monterrey Consensus had provided an important road map for the elimination of poverty and the consolidation of economic independence for all nations. His delegation hoped for a successful conclusion to the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Israel, which was in the process of joining the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, had built its economy on exporting technologies.

15. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review would provide an opportunity to assess and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations. Further cooperation in partnerships, such as South-South cooperation and cooperation with developed States, was an important

strategy for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at the global, regional and country levels. Israel was increasing the activities of the MASHAV Center for International Cooperation and its contributions to development. His country would continue to do its utmost to contribute to development in the fields of technology transfer and technical cooperation. It was creating new and innovative partnerships and strengthening its relationships with Member States and with funds and programmes in those areas.

16. Israel looked forward to promoting the transfer of technologies for sustainable development in fields such as agriculture, water, renewable energy and natural resources. The Second Committee should adopt a constructive resolution that would lay the groundwork for the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which would be considering the linkages between agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. Progress in that thematic cluster was fundamental to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development across the world, especially in Africa. As training was one of the issues on the agenda, Israel would like to emphasize the importance it attached to training and capacity-building.

17. His Government remained committed to strengthening and revitalizing the work of the Second Committee. A rational division of work between the Committee and the Economic and Social Council should be considered. Rationalization of the agenda should continue, including through the clustering of items and sub-items, and biennialization and triennialization as appropriate. Streamlining of lengthy resolutions would also improve the Committee's effectiveness.

18. Finally, his delegation wished to underscore the importance of honouring the working methods of the Committee and in particular of refraining from singling out Member States for political criticism and condemnation. The Committee had witnessed that practice just a few minutes earlier. It was important that the Committee should work in consensus.

19. **Mr. Mbuende** (Namibia) said that, although significant growth had occurred in the developing world, especially in Africa, that growth had not been evenly spread. His own country, for example, had grown by only 4.6 per cent in 2006. Job creation had not kept up with growth in Africa. Furthermore, oil-importing countries like Namibia had been negatively affected by ever-increasing oil prices.

20. The current impasse in the Doha Development Round had had a negative impact on development and the fight against poverty. It had also affected movement in other areas of negotiations, such as Aid for Trade, and had given rise to a multitude of bilateral, regional and subregional trade agreements which could divert trade negotiations from the multilateral trading system and its rules and principles.

21. The imbalances in the global financial system needed to be addressed. The world's reliance on a single currency made it very vulnerable. The reform of the international financial and economic institutions must result in an increase in the voice and participation of developing countries on an equal footing.

22. The international community had adopted a specific agenda with measurable targets to accelerate development in the poorest countries of the world in both the Millennium Declaration adopted in 2000 and the Monterrey Consensus of 2002. However, no similar advances had been made in respect of development cooperation with middle-income developing countries. The ODA promised in Monterrey remained just promises for developing countries in general and for middle-income countries in particular. The relative success of middle-income countries in a number of areas should not be used to deny the poor in those countries access to much-needed development assistance. If the international community was to reach the target of halving poverty by 2015, the poverty-reduction efforts of middle-income countries needed to be supported through ODA, trade and investment, economic and technical cooperation, and transfer of technology. The United Nations must take the lead in supporting the development efforts of middle-income countries so as to enable them to address the three areas of basic vulnerabilities identified at the two Conferences on Development Cooperation with Middle-income Countries, held in Madrid and San Salvador. The forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development would contribute significantly to preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha in 2008.

23. His Government took the issue of climate change seriously and believed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should always be applicable. As an insignificant emitter of greenhouse gases but a significant victim of the effects of climate change, Namibia's preoccupation was adaptation, for which international support was required. The Global Environment Facility, which supported his country's adaptation efforts, should be sufficiently funded.

24. **Mr. Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) regretted that progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was lagging in a number of developing countries, despite their efforts. Disparity between North and South was growing, resulting in further marginalization of developing countries in terms of international economic relations. Concerns had also arisen regarding environmental degradation and natural disasters. Unilateral and coercive economic embargoes against sovereign States continued and were even openly justified on the pretext of anti-terrorism or human rights protection. Such practices were an impediment to the development of developing countries, violated their sovereignty under the United Nations Charter and should be terminated. Member States needed to display political will and make significant efforts to restructure the existing unfair international economic relations.

25. The current protectionist trading system characterized by large export subsidies and anti-dumping tariffs constituted a major stumbling block for developing countries in their efforts to develop and access international markets. The current system must be replaced with a fairer one, in which both developing and developed countries could prosper.

26. Since economic development and capacity varied among countries, no single model could enable all countries to achieve sustainable development. International development assistance must meaningfully contribute to building capacity in developing countries, while respecting individual countries' national development strategies and policies.

27. Climate change and environmental devastation were now emerging as the biggest obstacles to sustainable development. The consequences of indifference could be disastrous; the situation thus required concerted efforts by Member States.

28. The United Nations, given its role to promote the three pillars of sustainable development, should also make it a priority to facilitate the creation of an international environment favourable to developing countries as they strove to achieve the Goals. It was essential to expand the role of development organizations in the United Nations system, such as the Economic and Social Council, in order to overcome current challenges.

29. Finally, his delegation drew the Committee's attention to certain countries' attempts to use United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme, as a means of exerting political pressure; that was clearly unacceptable.

30. **Mr. Wali** (Nigeria) said that Nigeria was a keen advocate of a coherent and effective United Nations system and therefore attached great importance to the Triennial Policy Review. The activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development were also crucial, since the Commission served as a fulcrum for the United Nations development agenda. His delegation regretted that the Commission had not been able to reach consensus on the Chairperson's draft negotiating text during its fifteenth session and urged it to concentrate on achieving consensus on issues relating to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.

31. Because energy was key to sustainable development, it was essential to improve access to new energies. Nigeria therefore fully supported and promoted the development of a flexible energy mix. In that connection, it was intensifying efforts to harness renewable energies and called for international financial investment, technical assistance and capacity-building measures. As an oil-producing country, Nigeria also attached great importance to the development and transfer of clean fossil fuel technologies.

32. Nigeria recognized the link between trade and development and therefore advocated a rapid conclusion of the Doha Round. There was a critical need for a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributed to growth, development and employment generation. Removal of agricultural subsidies would certainly facilitate market access for developing countries. Furthermore, the rules for intellectual property rights should be reformed to enable developing countries to access new technologies and products more easily.

33. He deplored the international financial imbalances and the dominance of the developed countries in setting financial standards. Furthermore, he agreed with the observation that further loss of confidence in the dollar could trigger abrupt changes in the global economy, destabilize the international financial system and jeopardize the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

34. Nigeria hoped that the 2008 Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would provide for the resources needed to meet the development aspirations of the developing countries. It also called for the speedy implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Development commitments made in 2002 had not yet been met. The current and projected levels of ODA for 2006-2010 fell far short of the $150 billion deemed necessary for the developing countries to attain the Goals. He therefore urged development partners to scale up their ODA contribution to the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their GNI. It was equally crucial to honour pledges made in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010.

35. Development assistance should be an effective vehicle for delivering quality development, based on sound country-owned programmes integrated into the budget but should not be used to pay experts supplied by the donors. The new Development Cooperation Forum should provide international oversight on development assistance. Resources needed for development had to be made available through debt reduction and cancellation of unsustainable debt.

36. It was generally acknowledged that in future climate change would have a more severe impact on developing countries and make development more difficult and costly for them, particularly in Africa. The international community should therefore focus on ensuring the effectiveness of various initiatives directed at enhancing Africa's capacity to adapt to climate change. The resounding success of the recent informal thematic debate and the High-level Event on Climate Change had demonstrated the political will of States to address the issue of climate change which should lead to a comprehensive outcome at the upcoming Bali Climate Change Conference, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The negotiations should be completed by 2009 to ensure that a new agreement would become effective in 2012.

37. Nigeria was fully committed to South-South cooperation, which was no doubt making a tremendous difference to the development architecture of developing countries, and advocated strengthening the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme as the focal point for South-South cooperation. To illustrate its commitment, Nigeria had donated $1 million to the Special Unit for capacity-building and development initiatives. It was encouraging that many developing countries had benefited not only from new investment inflows but also from technology transfer through the South-South mechanism. Nigeria commended the initiative to establish a South-South Global Asset and Technology Exchange and reiterated its call for a target date.

38. In order for the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved, both developed and developing countries needed to follow through on their commitments. Regrettably, donor countries had not done so and furthermore the effects of climate change were seriously hampering efforts to achieve the Goals. Recalling the international community's concern that sub-Saharan Africa would not be able to achieve any of the Goals by 2015, he stressed the need for development partners to urgently fulfil their commitments to Africa. The success of the New Partnership for Africa's Development showed that African countries, with sustained international support and solidarity, were capable of making appreciable strides in good governance and sustainable development.

39. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) said that the current political momentum regarding climate change should be harnessed with a view to formulating a global strategy to address the urgent situation. It was the Committee's responsibility to set the stage for the Bali Climate Change Conference. Progress in new technologies and renewable energies were key aspects in that process and should be the focus of the Committee's efforts. Governments and public institutions should, with tax incentives and direct investment, stimulate activity by businesses and civil society in that area. The negative effects of climate change could hinder progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. San Marino remained committed to the Goals and attached great importance to global cooperation and public-private partnerships.

40. The responses of the Bretton Woods institutions should be better coordinated with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to ensure that coherent guidelines and practices were maintained throughout the United Nations system. As pointed out by the representative speaking for the European Union, it was essential to continue strengthening the work of the Committee as part of the revitalization of the General Assembly and to streamline the Committee's work to produce timely, concrete results.

41. **Mr. Paudel** (Nepal) said that poverty eradication and sustainable development remained major concerns for the international community. While progress was being made towards the Millennium Development Goals, the benefits of development were unfairly distributed. The lack of progress in the Doha Development Agenda was a source of concern, as it undermined the development dimension of trade and allowed continued marginalization of poor countries.

42. Without improved market access and infrastructure, efficient production technology and innovative incentives, the poorest countries would not benefit from globalization. In that context, international organizations had a critical role to play. He again called for broad, effective operationalization of the Aid-for-Trade initiative and wider, more efficient access to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.

43. The special needs and difficulties of the least developed and landlocked developing countries should be taken into account in all issues under the Committee's consideration. He called for concerted efforts by the international community to address the persistent extreme poverty and marginalization of the least developed countries, particularly by ensuring effective, timely implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. Likewise, landlocked developing countries faced special difficulties in the transit and transport of goods and services to and from the sea. It was essential to ensure the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action with a view to furthering meaningful transit transport cooperation and trade facilitation for those countries. In addition, the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, to be held in 2008, should focus on the fulfilment of commitments made. Drawing attention to the special needs of the least developed countries emerging from conflict, he urged the international community to support them financially and technically so as to help them achieve sustained peace and development. Donor communities should channel aid through national budgets to increase public investment and to support national development priorities. Timely fulfilment of international financial commitments, specifically the implementation of debt relief measures and achievement of ODA targets, would be critical in fostering the socio-economic development of the developing and least developed countries.

44. The vital issue of climate change should be viewed not in isolation but in relation to human security, social and economic development, and environmental protection. It presented both a threat and an opportunity but should not under any circumstances divert the already scarce resources committed to development.

45. The promotion of sustainable development in mountainous regions was important not only for preserving biodiversity but also for supporting the traditional knowledge of mountain peoples and integrating mountainous areas into national economies. The implications of climate change for mountainous regions and those regions' specific needs should be identified and addressed.

46. The High-level Event on Climate Change and subsequent debate had unequivocally underlined the relationship between climate change and poverty eradication, which demanded further collective efforts based on genuine partnership and common but differentiated responsibilities. Nepal hoped that the momentum generated would pave the way for a global agreement on climate change with long-term binding commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A start would be made at the upcoming Bali Climate Change Conference.

47. The successful conclusion of Nepal's ongoing peacebuilding efforts remained the Government's top priority, requiring the availability and effective mobilization of resources as well as continued support from development partners. It was equally important to ensure coherent, policies at the national and international levels, while strengthening national ownership and leadership of development plans and priorities.

48. Nepal attached great importance to the enhanced development role of the United Nations system and the

operational efficiency of its country-level presence. The focus should be on the implementation of programmes that promoted national and local development capacity-building and supported Goal-based national development strategies. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review would be an opportunity for constructive development collaboration.

49. **Mr. Matenje** (Malawi) said that, although science and technology were important for the promotion of sound economic growth and development in rich and poor countries, the digital divide continued to grow. He called on the Committee to consider the relevant agenda item comprehensively and reach a conclusion aimed at reducing that gap and eliminating undue obstacles resulting from the international intellectual property regime, in particular through the provision of essential and affordable public services, the creation of an environment conducive to learning and the development of local technologies based on existing patents. Knowledge-based development was the basic ingredient for reducing poverty in developing countries.

50. The General Assembly's informal thematic debate on climate change, held in late July/early August, and the Secretary-General's High-level Event on Climate Change, held in September, had increased international awareness of the importance of protecting the global climate for present and future generations. As States prepared for the Bali Climate Change Conference in December, the Committee should focus on, and recommend ways of addressing, specific issues of concern. It should unanimously call on developed countries to help developing countries adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures by transferring climate-friendly technologies to them.

51. As the international community prepared for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, he called on the Committee to address comprehensively such issues as debt relief, ODA, FDI and international trade. In that regard, he urged the Committee to reach conclusions that would help poor countries engage in international trade on equitable terms so as to enable them to generate the resources needed to reduce poverty, instead of relying on handouts.

52. Expressing concern about the continued suspension of the Doha Round, he urged the major trading countries to demonstrate the flexibility and political will needed to conclude negotiations in a manner favourable to developing countries. He looked forward to the establishment of a fair and balanced international trading system and the removal of agricultural subsidies and trade barriers to non-agricultural commodities and services in order to enhance developing countries' access to international trade.

53. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the side events planned for the current session, provided they were development-oriented and added value to the Committee's discussions. His delegation also expected the selection of panellists and key speakers at those events to take account of regional considerations, so as to ensure a diverse perspective and balance in the discussions.

54. **Mr. Tun** (Myanmar) noted that, according to the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007*, developing countries and economies in transition had continued their strong economic performance in 2006, with average growth rates reaching 6.5 and 7.2 per cent respectively. Despite that overall improvement, however, the benefits of development and growth had not been distributed evenly. The economies of many developing countries were still not strong enough to support their Governments' endeavours to achieve their development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

55. In order to achieve those Goals, particularly the goal to reduce poverty by half, developing countries needed a much more favourable international economic environment and enhanced international assistance. In order to benefit from trade, they needed a more equitable and development-oriented multilateral trading system. The Doha Round must be concluded and developed countries must demonstrate flexibility and political will in addressing developing countries' concerns. Inequalities in the international trading system would lead only to global economic slowdown and failure by most developing countries to attain internationally agreed development goals. The momentum gained from United Nations resolutions and the outcomes of international development conferences must be exploited so as to help developing countries achieve economic growth, sustainable development and social progress. The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development would provide an opportunity to strengthen the global partnership and push forward the

international development agenda. Existing international commitments must be translated into actions, the flow of predictable development assistance increased, and innovative sources of financing for internationally agreed development goals found.

56. His Government's National Development Plan aimed to accelerate growth, achieve equitable and balanced development, and reduce the socio-economic development gap between rural and urban areas in Myanmar. Significant progress had been achieved in a number of sectors, including health, education, infrastructure and agriculture. Achievements under the Plan also covered many targets relating to the Millennium Development Goals.

57. He welcomed the international community's reaffirmation, at the High-level Event on Climate Change, of its sense of urgency, commitment and political will in meeting the challenges of climate change. However, climate change would be solved only if its root causes were addressed. Poverty was an underlying cause of environmental degradation, and underdevelopment and deprivation resulted in economic, political and social hardships in developing countries. Unless poverty alleviation was addressed properly, economic growth, social development and environmental protection would not be possible. In that regard, his Government looked forward to a successful conclusion of the Bali Climate Change Conference, which would be a crucial step towards establishing a fair, just and development-oriented climate regime. Developed and developing countries had a common but differentiated responsibility to unite in a global partnership to combat climate change, for the sake of present and future generations.

58. **Mr. Al-Aud** (Yemen) said that focus on least developed countries was essential in view of the major financial and technical difficulties which they faced in implementing their national strategies for poverty reduction, education and human development. Itself in that category, Yemen was striving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through its own five-year development plan, yet it annually received almost one third less ODA than other countries in similar economic positions. In that context, he urged international partners to fulfil their commitment to the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP and to pursue debt-cancellation or debt-relief measures, market opening, goods-tax exemptions, technology transfer and capacity-building for least developed countries.

59. Implementation of the outcome of the Millennium Summit and the Monterrey Consensus was vital to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, just as the mobilization of financial resources for development was vital for a global partnership to that end. He therefore looked forward to the impending High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and stressed that the forthcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development should examine the fulfilment of earlier commitments and explore new sources of financing for development.

60. Yemen had to prepare to meet the impact of climate change from natural disasters in the region and also shouldered a joint responsibility to save human beings from such threats, which would exact the highest price from the most resource-poor. He therefore called for flexibility at the forthcoming Bali Climate Change Conference and for the commencement of negotiations, to be completed by 2009, for a regime to replace the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

61. **Mr. Ould Hadrami** (Mauritania) said that his country appreciated the increasing attention devoted by the United Nations to development issues at such forums as the recent High-level Event on Climate Change and the impending High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development. Essentially, however, the growing interest in climate change should be reflected in concrete action such as a commitment from the industrialized countries to reduce their gas emissions, which endangered the ozone layer and had adverse impacts on the environment and on all aspects of human life.

62. In terms of its economy, health and environment, the African continent lagged far behind others and some of its human activities so directly affected the environment as to promote desertification and drought. Sub-Saharan countries, including Mauritania, were also regularly plagued by swarming locusts, a problem with such a grave effect on daily lives that it merited no less international concern than did climate change.

63. For poor countries, debt cancellation alone was not enough; markets should be opened to their exports and customs tariffs reduced. Their membership of WTO would also benefit their economies. Mauritania's recent democratic transformation had laid the foundations for good governance and a promising investment climate. Under World Bank supervision, its

new Government had therefore elaborated a development plan for presentation to its development partners in December 2007.

64. **Mr. Torrington** (Guyana) said that increased attention to climate change in recent weeks had illustrated real and complex dimensions of the issue and its inextricable linkages with the overall development process. For many countries, climate change was not just another development issue, but rather a phenomenon that directly affected their efforts to improve their people's standard of living and seriously threatened their chances of attaining the Millennium Development Goals. That increased attention should result in more pragmatic and ambitious goals for the upcoming negotiations in Bali and a post-Kyoto regime supportive of developing countries' efforts and ensure that the realities of achieving sustainable levels of development, particularly in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, were clearly engraved in the international consciousness. In that connection, the Guyanese delegation to the High-level Event on Climate Change had called for increased and easily accessible financial resources and capacity-building for climate change mitigation by developing countries.

65. Trade was his Government's preferred means of achieving sustainable levels of development. It had been demonstrated that the successful conclusion of the Doha Round could generate additional resources for development of between $250 billion and $400 billion a year. Noting that agriculture had been the focus of negotiations, he said that 75 per cent of the world's poor lived in rural areas and worked in agriculture or related activities. Agriculture was also the sector most affected by the policies of developed countries. Developed countries continued to propagate the thesis that free trade guaranteed prosperity for all. In reality, however, countries such as his own simply could not successfully compete in fully liberalized markets unless they were assisted in making a gradual transition. It was imperative, therefore, that negotiations on future trade arrangements paid due regard to the development challenges of small States

66. Guyana agreed that each country bore primary responsibility for improving the quality of life of its citizens and had therefore worked hard to ensure that it was better poised to take advantage of opportunities in the international economy and thrive in the modern world. The way to achieve that vision was to build on the positive foundations established thus far while at the same time addressing evolving challenges through a strategy premised on a deep commitment to social justice and an unshakeable belief in the power of a vibrant free-market economy.

67. His Government was committed to a Caribbean single market and economy. The region could survive best by accelerating the integration process already under way. A pivotal element of that approach was to revitalize agriculture and foster greater food security. Agriculture continued to play an important role in many economies in the region and the sector's performance was crucial to the Caribbean's prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As well as diversifying into other viable economic ventures, the region had worked hard to make its agricultural sector more dynamic and competitive. The Jagdeo Initiative represented a comprehensive strategy for achieving those objectives.

68. The entrenched inequality at all levels and within and across countries and regions posed a challenge to global prospects for peace and security, and underscored the need for cooperation in today's globalized world. In that regard, his delegation had noted with interest the perspective expressed in the keynote address at the beginning of the Committee's general debate (A/C.2/62/SR.2) that, in the received wisdom of the day, the interests and fortunes of small States remained peripheral to the agendas of major State and non-State actors at the international level. There was an urgent need to demonstrate the reality of global interdependence. Neither the fuller integration of small States into the international economy, nor support for their participation in trade, nor the principle of common but differentiated responsibility could or should be premised on mere altruistic inclinations.

69. The Committee should take stock of the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals and seek to invigorate efforts to facilitate the achievement of those Goals by the largest possible number of countries. The United Nations was particularly suited to lead the way towards a truly global partnership for development. In recognition of that fact, his Government had submitted to the General Assembly an initiative calling for a new global human order based on equity and social justice. The world needed to formulate a qualitatively different and more holistic strategy leading to a strong political consensus and

broad-based partnership to address the agendas for global peace and development.

70. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that the serious challenges facing the global economy were likely to become even more pronounced with the expected global economic downturn in 2007. Those challenges were further aggravated by the slow pace at which the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, were being implemented. Since there had been no major achievements on that front, he doubted whether those Goals would be reached by 2015. He emphasized the need to implement the outcomes of all United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

71. Expressing concern about developing countries' continued vulnerability to any economic slowdown in the major developed countries and about the decline in ODA, he called on developed countries to make concrete efforts to achieve the Monterey targets and to promote additional debt cancellation, relief and restructuring for the heavily indebted poor countries.

72. On the issue of climate change, a choice must be made between individual interests and the common good. In his delegation's view, the common good resided in emissions being substantially reduced and all countries participating in an effective and appropriate international response to climate change, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and their respective capabilities and socio-economic conditions. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol were the appropriate instruments for addressing climate change. Their objectives should be implemented with full observance of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities. Moreover, climate change should be addressed within the context of sustainable development, with equal weight given to economic development, social development and environmental protection. Now that the High-level Event on Climate Change had shed more light on the issue, his delegation hoped that the Bali Climate Change Conference would galvanize enough political will among Member States to increase the momentum of negotiations and achieve a comprehensive and all-inclusive agreement establishing a new regime for curtailing developed countries' emissions post Kyoto.

73. The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would present a renewed opportunity to reiterate the need for mechanisms to facilitate implementation of the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus, and to consider innovative sources of financing for development.

74. In addition to providing normative and policy guidance to some 40 United Nations development system entities, the resolution arising from negotiations on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review should stress that the Organization's operational activities must be nationally owned and led, demand-driven rather than donor-driven, and free from any conditionality. In that regard, he reiterated the need to increase core funding for such activities and preserve the multilateral and neutral nature of such funding.

75. His Government supported efforts to strengthen the Economic and Social Council; welcomed the establishment of the Development Cooperation Forum and the holding of the first Annual Ministerial Review at the Council's most recent substantive session; called for the early resumption and completion of the Doha Round, the continued suspension of which hindered the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of developing an open and rule-based trading system; supported the Aid for Trade Initiative; and supported calls for reform of the Bretton Woods institutions.

76 Lastly, the international community should pay more attention to the dire economic, social and humanitarian situation of people currently living, or having previously lived, under foreign occupation and recognize the impact that foreign occupation had on their sustainable development and livelihood. The Committee should send a clear message to the aggressor that deliberate attacks on the environment would not be tolerated.

77. **Mr. Buffa** (Paraguay) said that the lack of progress in the Doha Round was a real setback for developing and landlocked countries such as Paraguay, whose progress towards industrialization continued to be hampered by such obstacles as closed markets, additional transit costs and tariff protectionism. Nevertheless, Paraguay had succeeded in becoming a leading producer of a variety of agricultural goods, which demonstrated that if developed countries removed their anachronistic agricultural subsidies and

became truly open to bilateral trade then developing countries would not in fact need to receive ODA in the first place.

78. Within the framework of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), Paraguay had successfully demonstrated that asymmetries should be seen as limitations that slowed down the harmonious development of regions. As a result, the MERCOSUR Structural Convergence Fund had recognized the need to improve the production and transport infrastructure of smaller economies.

79. Agricultural production in Paraguay was increasingly threatened by climate change in the form of prolonged droughts, frequent forest fires and creeping desertification. Agricultural producers in Paraguay had therefore begun to focus on producing cheaper and more environment-friendly sources of energy, such as ethanol and biodiesel. The availability of those alternative fuels was expected to reduce Paraguay's dependence not only on costly oil imports but also on external financing for development.

80. His delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 61/212 on specific actions related to the particular needs of landlocked developing countries, which reaffirmed the importance of trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action. However, as a landlocked developing country, Paraguay continued to call for special and differentiated treatment that was effective. To that end, it was important to recall that landlocked developing countries were not simply a vulnerable group within the United Nations but, moreover, members of WTO.

81. The imposition of quotas, countervailing duties and tariff peaks and escalations by developed countries was inconsistent with globalization. Thus, with a view to overcoming such problems and establishing a fairer international economic system, the Committee should make every effort to focus on the key topics on the development agenda.

82. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed concern that a slowdown in the global economy would have a negative impact on efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. His country was already facing a number of challenges that constrained the rate of its own development, including a limited capacity to mobilize domestic and external resources for development, poor terms of trade, supply-side constraints, inadequate infrastructure and an HIV/AIDS pandemic. Nevertheless, it was making some progress towards achieving its targets, particularly in the areas of primary education, gender equality and child mortality.

83 The United Nations must make every effort to mobilize the political will to break the current deadlock in the Doha Round in order to ensure that countries continued to operate within a rule-based regime. The convening of a high-level meeting might be the best way to bring about the resumption of those negotiations.

84. The overall economic performance of the United Republic of Tanzania had been strong in recent years as a result of a sound macroeconomic policy framework, progress on structural reforms and substantial private sector involvement. However, the unsustainable level of national debt continued to pose a serious challenge to further development efforts, despite the debt relief that had been provided under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and other bilateral debt relief initiatives. While negotiations were still ongoing to reduce the debt burden further, it was clear that his country would not be in a position to repay its debts in the foreseeable future. Moreover, if the international community was serious about reducing poverty, the obvious solution was to cancel the overall multilateral debt of developing countries in order to release the resources necessary for poverty reduction and development. For their part, the developing countries would need to mobilize their domestic resources.

85. Despite the fact that large amounts of financing were required for development, the international community should view financing for development positively. In the case of Africa, for example, such financing could stimulate demand and promote an exchange of goods, services and factors of production. Current developments in Africa in general, and in his country in particular, showed that financing for development could also lead to steady growth once a certain momentum had been established. The forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development should therefore make serious efforts to find alternative means of financing for development.

86. His country frequently suffered from some of the most destructive consequences of climate change, such as severe droughts and floods. Given the need for

urgent global action to curb greenhouse gas emissions, negotiations leading to a post-2012 agreement should begin as soon as possible. Furthermore, in view of the negative impact of the current energy crisis on the national economy, his Government would support all efforts to promote alternative energy sources and energy efficiency.

87. Science and technology had a crucial role to play in the quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed goals. Technology transfer to developing countries should therefore also be encouraged, particularly since globalization tended to widen the technology gap between developed and developing countries.

88. Finally, his delegation supported the operational activities of the United Nations and looked forward to a positive outcome of negotiations on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review. A focused Review would help to make real progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed goals.

89. **Mr. Maboundou** (Republic of the Congo) welcomed the attention paid by the United Nations to such issues as sustainable development, climate change, debt relief and poverty eradication. His Government was resolutely engaged in reforms in those areas and was also committed to promoting international trade and development, information and communication technologies, and financing for development.

90. The deadlock in the Doha Round threatened not only to cause a protectionist backlash harmful to developing countries but also to hamper the implementation of the commitments made by WTO member States to eliminate all forms of export subsidies by the end of 2013.

91. His delegation attached particular importance to the promotion of information and communication technologies in developing countries as the best means to bridge the digital divide. In that respect, it hoped that the commitments entered into at the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society would help to create a global knowledge society that allowed everyone equal access to the benefits of technology.

92. Financing for development in his country was unfortunately limited by such factors as an unbearable debt burden, a lack of domestic savings and a very low volume of foreign direct investment. Nevertheless, implementation of a national poverty reduction strategy paper was expected to lead to a wide range of improvements in such areas as education, employment, health, security and governance. A rigorous monitoring and evaluation system had also been put in place to ensure the success of that initiative.

93. Finally, his delegation welcomed the holding of the recent High-level Event on Climate Change and commended the initiative for a joint approach to be submitted by the countries of the Congo Basin, Amazonia and Borneo at the forthcoming Bali Climate Change Conference.

94. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arabic Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had always emphasized the importance of not politicizing economic and social issues. However, the concluding remarks by the representative of Israel confirmed a desire to deprive Member States of the right to discuss the difficulties they faced in their attempts to achieve economic growth and sustainable development.

95. All would agree that foreign occupation was totally incompatible with economic growth and sustainable development. However, only the previous day Israel had confiscated some 110 hectares of farm land in Arab Jerusalem. Furthermore, Israel continued to impose high taxes on Syrian farmers in the occupied Golan Heights in order to deprive them of access to Israeli markets and ultimately to force them from their land to make way for Israeli settlements. It was time to hold the Israeli leadership accountable for such actions.

96. The scandalous practices of Israel had been well documented by the United Nations for several decades right up to the most recent ones, such as Israel's disregard of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of the separation wall in the occupied Palestinian territory. Special sessions of the Human Rights Council had been held to denounce inhumane Israeli practices in the occupied territories and every year the Special Rapporteurs continued to catalogue the negative economic and social effects of Israeli practices on Arab lands. Did such practices not seek to undermine all the efforts made by the Syrian Arabic Republic and Palestine to achieve sustainable development and economic growth and did they not also deprive the people affected of their right to development?

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.